

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-56 Cancelled

57. (New) A method for down-regulation of autologous OPGL in an individual in need thereof, the method comprising actively immunizing said individual against autologous OPGL.

58. (New) A method for down-regulation of autologous OPGL in an individual in need thereof, the method comprising administering, to the individual, an effective amount of an agent capable of inducing an immune response against the subject's autologous OPGL.

59. (New) A method for down-regulation of autologous OPGL in an individual in need thereof, the method comprising administering, to the individual, an effective amount of an agent capable of inducing an antibody response against the subject's autologous OPGL.

60. (New) A method for treating, ameliorating or preventing disease characterized by excessive bone resorption in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising actively immunizing said subject against autologous OPGL.

61. (New) A method for treating, ameliorating or preventing disease characterized by excessive bone resorption in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering, to the subject, an effective amount of an agent capable of inducing an immune response against the subject's autologous OPGL.

62. (New) A method for treating, ameliorating or preventing disease characterized by excessive bone resorption in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering, to the subject, an effective amount of an agent capable of inducing an antibody response against the subject's autologous OPGL.

63. (New) The method according to claim 57, wherein the active immunization comprises administration of an immunogenic agent selected from a polypeptide vaccine, a nucleic acid vaccine, a live vaccine, and a viral vaccine.

64. (New) The method according to claim 63, which further comprises that the immunogenic agent is in admixture with an adjuvant.

65. (New) The method according to any one of claims 58-62, wherein the active immunization comprises administration of an immunogenic agent selected from a polypeptide vaccine, a nucleic acid vaccine, a live vaccine, and a viral vaccine.

66. (New) The method according to any one of claims 58-62, which further comprises that the immunogenic agent is in admixture with an adjuvant.